

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 15008 210945Z

17

ACTION EA-09

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DHA-02 ABMC-01 VO-03 SCA-01 INT-05 /079 W

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R 210822Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4237

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

SECDEF WASHDC

COMNAVMARIANAS GUAM

CO ANDERSON AFB GUAM

HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN MARIANA ISLANDS

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HICOM ALSO FOR STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TQ JA

SUBJ: GOJ-SPONSORED WAR DEAD MEMORIAL ACTIVITIES ON GUAM

SUMMARY: JAPANESE CONSUL GENERAL, GUAM, WILL REQUEST PERMISSION FOR "BONES MISSION" TO COLLECT REMAINS OF WAR DEAD ON THREE US MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ON GUAM. END SUMMARY.

1. SINCE 1968, GOJ HAS INTERMITTANTLY DISPATCHED TO TTPI MISSIONS UNDER HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTRY SPONSORSHIP TO COLLECT, CREMATE AND RETURN TO JAPAN FOR INTERMENT THE REMAINS OF JAPANESE WAR DEAD. IN VIEW OF TTPI STATUS AS WARD OF USG, COMPLICATED AND EMOTIONAL QUESTION OF LAND TENURE RIGHTS IN MUCH OF TTPI, INHERENT POTENTIAL FOR "BONES COLLECTION" MISSIONS' ABUSE BY CHARLATANS, AND QUASI-RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE OF MISSIONS TO JAPANESE, MISSIONS HAVE BEEN CLOSELY SUPERVISED BY GOJ AND HICOMTERPACIS. EMBASSY HAS SERVED AS LINK BETWEEN GOJ AND HICOM, WHICH APPROVES MISSIONS ONLY AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW AND DISCUSSIONS

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 15008 210945Z

AT DISTRICT LEVEL.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT GOJ WISHES TO DISPATCH A MISSION FOR THE FIRST TIME TO GUAM. THE THREE SITES WHICH THE MISSION WISHES TO SEARCH ARE ALL ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS: ANDERSON AFB, US NAVAL STATION, AGANA, AND A NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION, LOCATION UNKNOWN TO EMBASSY. THE PARTY WILL CONSIST OF 21 PERSONS AND WISHES TO WORK AT TARGET SITES FROM NOVEMBER 27 TO DECEMBER 16.

3. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT IN VIEW OF GUAM'S STATUS AS US TERRITORY AND DOD'S JURISDICTION OVER TARGET SITES, EMBASSY AND LOCAL CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES NOT REQUIRED PLAY FORMAL ROLE IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR BONES MISSION TO GUAM. EMBASSY HAS SUGGESTED, THEREFORE, THAT JAPANESE CONSUL GENERAL ON GUAM, MR. SUEKAZU HAMANAKA, DIRECTLY APPROACH LOCAL BASE COMMANDERS.

4. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THAT GOJ REQUEST MAY PRESENT PROBLEMS FOR ARMED SERVICES, BUT URGES FAVORABLE RESPONSE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HAMANAKA HAS ALREADY INFORMALLY QUERIED GOVERNOR BORDALLO'S OFFICE AND COMNAVMAIRNAS, AND THAT HE WILL MAKE FORMAL REQUEST IN NEAR FUTURE. EMBASSY PRESUMES HE WILL SPECIFY LOCATIONS OF CAVES, ETC., THAT PARTY WILL WISH TO SEARCH.

5. FOR HICOM AND STATUS LNO. BONES MISSION DISCUSSED ABOVE WILL ALSO INCLUDE GROUPS BOUND FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN. DETAILS WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL AND TALKING PAPER POUCHED SOONEST. HODGSON

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